

Branford Parks and Recreation Shoreline Theatre Company Presents



# RUFFS



*Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a  
Certain School of Magic and Magic*

October 13th, 14th, & 15th @ 7:00 PM

Cathynn Roding Auditorium at Branford High School

\$10 for Students (under 18) / \$20 for Adults (203) 488-8304



[www.shorelinetheatrecompany.com](http://www.shorelinetheatrecompany.com)

# A Note from the Headmaster

*"It is easy to feel like you are only a secondary character in someone else's grand story. That doesn't mean, however, there isn't a story out there that's all about you."*

I must warn you. You will laugh. Probably! At least you should be laughing, because, spoiler alert, this is a comedy. It is a comedy about an orphan boy who discovers he is a wizard. He meets two unlikely friends and these three embark on a quest for knowledge at a certain school of magic, which leads to a terrible battle for the fate of the world! This story, however, is not about the boy you have been imagining. While that very famous magic boy with a terrible scar on his forehead appears throughout this tale, I was talking about a completely different orphan boy who discovers he is a wizard.

The boy I am talking about is named Wayne and he is sorted into the Puffs, a ragtag group of students : not all that courageous enough to be a Brave, not all that intelligent enough to be a Smart, not all that scuzzy enough to be a Snake, but just magical enough to be a Puff. Everybody is always down on the Puffs. Yet it is the Puffs who really make this journey different from the books you've read and the movies you've watched featuring this magical school.

The Puffs, you see, do not succeed most of the time. They fail. And fail and fail. And they fail again. With every failure it is hard not to laugh at and with them as they struggle throughout their seven years at magic school. Yet, despite their set-backs, the Puffs keep getting up. They keep striving to be, at least, passable at magic. Not for themselves, but for each other. And while they struggle, that famous boy with the scar on his forehead is getting into all sorts of trouble which directly affects the Puffs, putting them into even greater danger-- Danger they all need each other for in order to come out the other end. And, spoiler alert, some of them do not.

This show is for anyone who ever felt not quite in line with the status quo. It is dedicated to the "Puffs" in our lives-- those who have worked hard and remained loyal and true, even if they have lost their car keys or momentarily forgot how old they were. It is dedicated to those who have played fair when life is anything but. Perhaps this show is dedicated to you. So sit back, relax, prepare to laugh, and revel in the familiar, yet new, story of the Puffs!



# Cast

**NARRATOR** - Dan Frye

**WAYNE HOPKINS** - Gio Esposito

**OLIVER RIVERS** - Nick Colombo

**MEGAN JONES** - Sophia Coppola

**LEANNE & OTHERS** - Amelia Nemeth

**ERNIE MAC & OTHERS** - Joey Martone

**HANNAH, XAVIA JONES, & OTHERS** - Kelsey Mulligan

**J. FINCH FLETCHLEY & OTHERS** - Rob Luce

**SALLY PERKS & OTHERS** - Carly Phipers

**SUSIE BONES, HARRY, & OTHERS** - Morgan Selander

**CEDRIC, MISTER VOLDY, & OTHERS** - Mike Martone Jr.

**DEATH BUDDY/MAGICAL STAGEHAND** - Shay Barret

**DEATH BUDDY/MAGICAL STAGEHAND** - Alexis Peterson

*"A play for anyone who has never been  
destined to save the world."*



# Creative Team

**Director** - Chris Lemieux

**Original Music** - Brian Metoulis

**Sound Design** - Matt Cox

**Stage Manager** - Sibel Iljazi

**Scenic & Props Designer** - Kristin Hottin

**Technical Director & Lighting Designer** - Adam Jackson

**Sound Operator** - Lenora Longway

**Props Mistress** - Emma Ng

**Construction Head** - Mike Martone Jr.

**Co-Founders of STC** - Colin Sheehan & Mike Martone Jr.

## **Special Thanks**

Ariel Cobden *(Program)*

John Mccoll *(Poster Design)*

Sue Hottin *(Cloaks)*

Morgan Hackley *(Photos)*

Pam Johnson *(The Sound)*

Steve Mazzacane *(Steve Mazzacane Podcast)*

Branford High School

Branford Parks and Recreation Staff

**Director** - Alex Palluzzi

**Assistant Director** - Dale Izzo

**Program Supervisor** - Victor Amatori

**Arts, Culture & Special Events Coordinator**

- Colin Sheehan

**Administrative Assistant** - Monica Sullivan

**Administrative Assistant** - Marissa Dugan



# Who's Who



## Morgan Selander

**[Susie Bones, Harry and Others]** is currently a Junior at Branford High School and has participated in many BHS plays. In the past, they did several shows with the Tabor Arts Program, where she met many of her current castmates for the first time. This is their first community theatre production.



## Sophia Coppola

**[Megan Jones]** is pumped to be in her first play with Branford Park and Rec's STC. She has been in their shows since their beginning, in *Hairspray* (Ensemble) as well as *The Producers*, and has recently been in *Chicago* (Roxie Hart). She works as a choreographer and counselor for the winter and summer junior shows at STC, and currently works at Studio One as a dance instructor. In high school, Sophia was in *The Addams Family* (Wednesday Addams) and in *Sweeney Todd* (Mrs. Lovett). She is currently a sophomore at SCSU and was in the latest Spring 2022 play *Antigone* (Ismene). In her free time she enjoys writing creatively and reading. She wants to thank her family for supporting her and Chris for being such an intentional and creative director. "Thank you to the cast and crew for putting this show together. Third or nothing!"



## Amelia Nemeth

**[Leanne and Others]** is thrilled to be making her Shoreline Theatre Company debut in Puffs in the role her friend originated in the original cast! Favorite CT theatre credits include "*Jesus Christ Superstar*" (Peter) at the Thomaston Opera House, "*Mamma Mia*" (Tanya) and "*She Loves Me*" (Ilona Ritter) at The Arts at Angelonia's, and "*Tarzan*" (Kala), "*Pippin*" (Fastrada/Glory Trio), and "*Chicago*" (Lipschitz/Asst. Choreographer) at the Square Foot Theatre Company. Other favorite credits include the national tours of "*A Christmas Carol*" (The Ghost of Christmas Past) and "*The Jungle Book*" (Baloo), "*Thoroughly Modern Millie*" (Gloria), "*Rent*" (U/S Maureen), "*A Midsummer Night's Dream*" (Puck), "*Ragtime*" (Dance Captain/U/S Mother), Theatre IV, and The Lost Colony. "Many thanks to Chris and the cast and crew at Shoreline, and thank you to my family, friends, Rosie <3, and my CT theatre community for their continued love and support! Proud Shenandoah Conservatory BFA Music Theatre Alum!"

# Who's Who



## Mike Martone Jr

**(A Very Tall Man, Cedric, Lord Voldy)** graduated from Branford High School in 2001 where he once was fortunate to grace this very stage as a cast and pit member. He attended Western Connecticut State University where he obtained his Bachelor of Science in Music education. Mike performed in several opera's as a member of the WCSU Opera Ensemble. Credits include; in the *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (William Barfee), *The Producers* (Max Bialystock), *The Magic Flute* (Tamino), *The Marriage of Figaro* (Don Basilio), *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (King Kasper), as well as several others. Mr. Martone graduated with high honors and was awarded the Ruth P. DeVillafranca Certificate, which is given to the most promising music educator as deemed by the music faculty. He also has his Masters of Science in Music Education from WCSU, again graduating Magna Cum Laude. As a founding member of the Shoreline Theatre Company along with Colin Sheehan, they have brought the local communities the opportunity to learn musical theater and continue that passion well into adulthood.



## Gio Esposito

**(Wayne Hopkins)** is a chemist who is excited to return to the Cathyann Roding Auditorium for his third production with Shoreline Theater Company. He has previously appeared in STC's *Peter and the Star Catcher* (THE Captain Robert Falcon Scott) and *Hairspray* (Mr. Pinky/Nicest Kid). Gio also preforms with the New Haven Chorale, where he serves as the group's treasurer and a member of the executive board. "Thanks to Headmaster Chris Lemieux for creating such a magical world here! Remember - "we're all important, and we're all unimportant. We're all heroes, in some way, to someone." Third or nothing? NO! First or nothing!"



## Carly Phipers

**(Sally Perks & Others)** is excited to be performing with the Shoreline Theatre Company for the first time. She graduated from Western Connecticut State University where she studied classical voice and studied German lit in Salzburg, Austria. Previous roles include *Spring Awakening* (Wendla), *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Rachel), 1984 (Julia), *Rocky Horry Show* (Janet), *Drowsy Chaperone* (Janet), *American Idiot* (Extraordinary Girl), *Nunsense the Mega Musical* (Sister Mary Leo), *Die Zauberflute* (Papagenal), and *Street Scenes* (Mae). Carly works at Newtown Veterinary Specialists and is studying to be a veterinary technician. "Many many thanks to the cast and crew for rehearsals full of endless, belly aching laughs!"

# Who's Who



## Rob Luce

**(J.Finch Fletchley & Others)** is excited to be back performing with Branford Parks and Recreation Shoreline Theatre Company. He graduated from Branford High School in 2003 and continued his studies, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from UConn and Master's Degree in Education from the University of New Haven. His most recent productions include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Leaf Coneybear) and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Lord Leonard Aster). He currently works at General Dynamics Electric Boat. He is thrilled to be working with such a talented cast and crew on this show and can't wait to be apart of future shows with STC!



## Dan Frye

**(The Narrator)** is happy to be back with Shoreline Theatre Company for another great show! Earlier this summer he had the great fortune to act in Shoreline Theatre Company's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Chip), as well as the Legacy Theatre's productions of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Snoopy) and *The Great Gatsby: A Live Radio Play* (Nick Carraway). You can catch him at Pantochino Production's *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* in Milford this Halloween, and the Legacy Theatre's *A Christmas Carol* in Stony Creek this Christmas. Dan received a BFA in Acting from the University of South Dakota. "Big thanks again to Chris for getting this whole thing rolling!"



## Joe Martone

**(Ernie Mac & Others)** is a custodian at Branford High School. This is his second performance with Shoreline Theatre Company. He was in their production of *The Producers* (Franz Liebkind). Joe is no stranger to the stage having sang lead vocals in his cover band, The Funky Monks, for many years. Joe gets his inspiration from watching far too many movies, a quality shared by the rest of his family. Go grab some delicious desserts made by his wife at Home restaurant of Branford!

# Who's Who



## Nick Colombo

(**Oliver Rivers**) love of the stage began when he started dancing at the age of four. He became a national dance champion by the age of seven and by age ten, Nick started acting. He has played (Puck) in *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and (Sir Andrew Aguecheek) in *Twelfth Night*. At Walsh Intermediate School, he enjoyed being in the (ensemble) of *James and the Giant Peach* and *The Little Mermaid*. In his last year at Walsh, Nick had fun playing (Turkey) in *Honk!* At the high school he played the role of Moonface Martin in *Anything Goes*. Nick has sung in Cantare at WIS and Music Makers at BHS. Nick also loves playing oboe, ukulele, guitar, drums, piano, and tenor saxophone. Nick would like to thank his grandparents, Kate and Nick for their love and support as he stands proud of who he is. Congratulations to everyone on a fantastic production!



## Kelsey Mulligan

(**Hannah, Xavia Jones & Others**) is thrilled to be in her first play with STC! A Branford native, Kelsey graduated from BHS in 2002 and received a B.A. in Musical Theatre Performance from Rhode Island College in 2006. Some of her favorite past shows include *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Ronald), *Hairspray* (Velma Von Tussle), *Chicago* (Liz "Pop"), *Sweet Charity* (Nickie), *Rocky Horror Show* (Magenta) and *Anything Goes* (Reno Sweeny). Kelsey has performed at the Ivoryton Playhouse and sung with NYC's *The Broadway Boys*, Tony Award winner, *Lillias White* and country music legend, *Kenny Rogers*. Off stage, Kelsey has worked as an Account Executive at Canusa Hershman Recycling for 15 years and is an Usher and House Manager at the Legacy Theatre in Stony Creek. "Congrats to the cast and crew for making magic!! Third or nothing!!!"

*"The Puffs! Spoiler alert-- Not everyone's favorite, but when a hat speaks-- you listen!"*

# Who's Who

## Chris Lemieux

**(Director)** is an actor and director based in Branford. He graduated from BHS and went on to study theater at Pace University. As an actor he is a proud member of the Actor's Equity Association. Recently, he performed in STC's production of *Chicago* (Amos Hart) and Legacy Theatre's production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Charlie Brown). He will appear in Legacy's revival of *A Christmas Carol* reprising his roles from last season. STC Directing credits: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Alice and Wonderland Jr.*, *High School Musical 1 & 2 Jr.*, and *Wizard of Oz Youth Edition*. Chris is incredibly excited to be taking over as the director for the Walsh Intermediate School musical this year He would like to thank Colin, Mike, Branford Parks and Rec, and all of the individuals who made this production possible. "All of my love to my parents, who instilled in me the joy of reading and introduced me to the boy who lived."

## Colin Sheehan

**(Co-Founder)** is a local arts enthusiast and serves as the Arts, Culture & Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Branford, Producer of the Broadway Spotlight Series & Community Arts Coordinator at Legacy Theatre, Director of The Branford High School Performing Arts' Spring Musical, and Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Branford Parks and Recreation Shoreline Theatre Company. He graduated from Branford High School and continued his studies at Wagner College with a B.A. in Theatre and Speech Performance. In 2003, he made his Broadway debut in the closing night production of *Les Misérables*. In '99, Colin appeared numerous times on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* and worked for three seasons on *The Wendy Williams Show*. Colin has produced, directed, hosted, and performed in the tri-state area and abroad with Broadway Cruises, Nickelodeon Cruises, and R Family Vacations Cruises. Colin is a philanthropist and has hosted, produced and raised funds and awareness for many organizations in Branford and beyond. For more information, visit [ColinSheehanEvents.com](http://ColinSheehanEvents.com).



# Who's Who

## **Kristin Hottin**

**(Scenic & Props Designer)** is thrilled to be back with Shoreline for their production of Puffs. In addition to her work with Shoreline, she has previously worked as a designer with Vista Life Innovations, a designer and scenic painter for Downtown Cabaret, scenic painter and props for Long Wharf theatre and painter for Center Stage, and set designer and props artist for Tabor Arts. Kristin wants to thank everyone who helped or put up with the favor requests that helped us put this together!

## **Sibel Hijazi**

**(Stage Manager)** is a sophomore at Branford High School, this is her first year working in stage management. Although she has no previous experience in this department, she is quickly learning and enjoys what she does. She is a soprano in Music Makers and hopes to pursue a singing career after college.

## **Adam Jackson**

**(Technical Director & Lighting Designer)** is excited to continue working with Shoreline Theatre Company this season! Adam has been involved in over 40 productions both onstage and backstage. Adam has most enjoyed portraying the Titanic (likenesses of J. Bruce Ismay), Thoreau in The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail (Henry David), in Shrek (Farquaad), A Christmas Carol (Ebenezer Scrooge), and both (Lucas Beineke and Gomez Addams) (understudy, performed) in The Addams' Family . Adam was head stage manager for STC's Inaugural Season and has continued to work with them in the areas of lighting and sound design and technical direction. He also works as a sound designer at the Legacy Theatre in Branford and The River Church in Danbury. Adam is a senior at Western Connecticut State University studying Music Education with a concentration in classical trombone. He works on the WCSU Music Department's student crew helping to plan and run events. Adam also works on his own projects, which have previously included recording a barbershop album, organizing several big band recording sessions, and producing his own concert.



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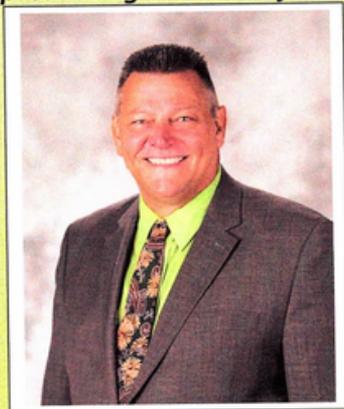
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*Of Shoreline Theater Company's Puffs*

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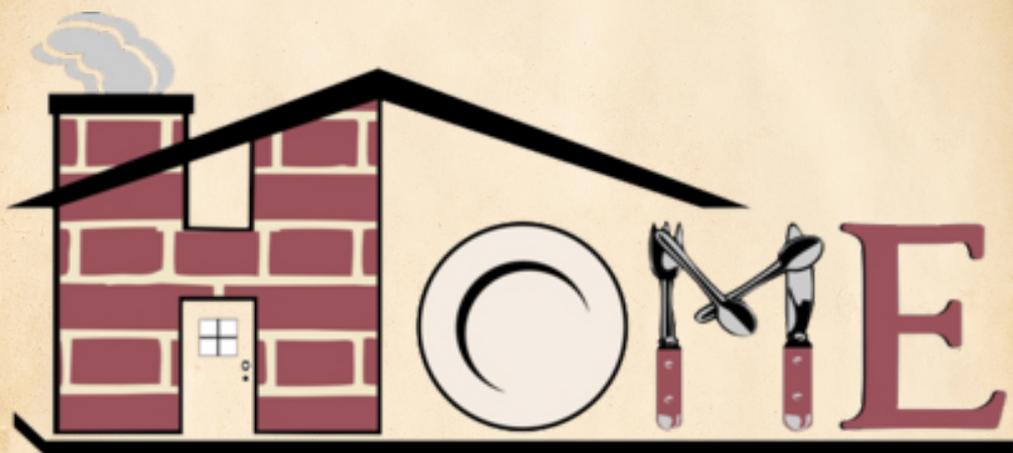


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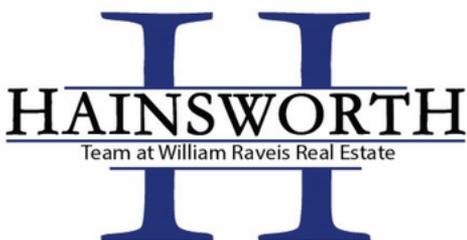
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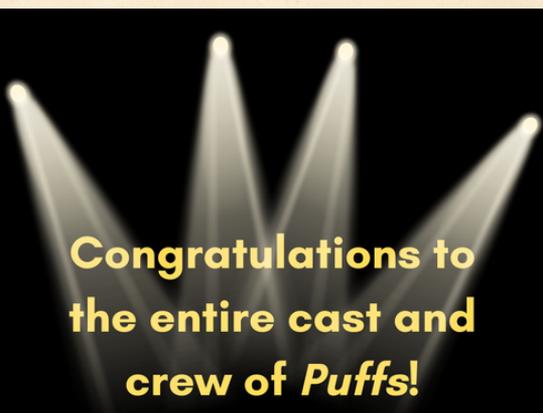
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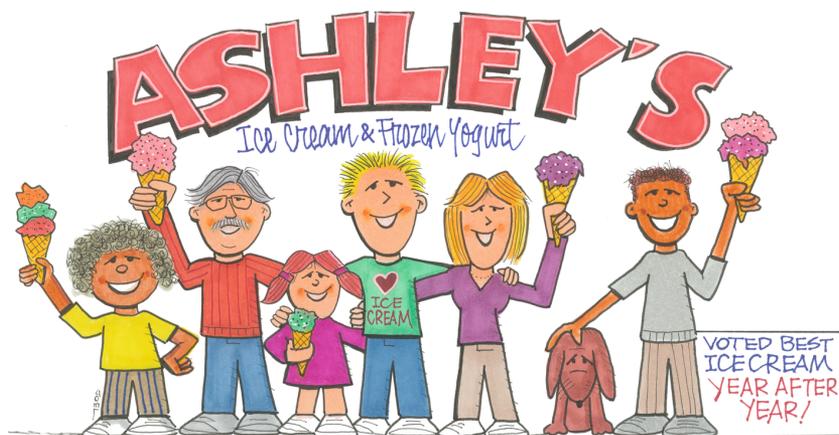
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the entire cast and  
crew of *Puffs!***

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# Incoming Owl From STC...



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at Branford High School

[ShorelineTheatreCompany.com](http://ShorelineTheatreCompany.com)

Students (under 18): \$10

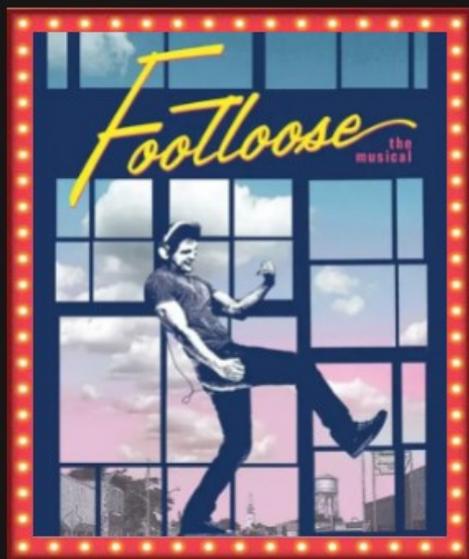
Adults (18+): \$20



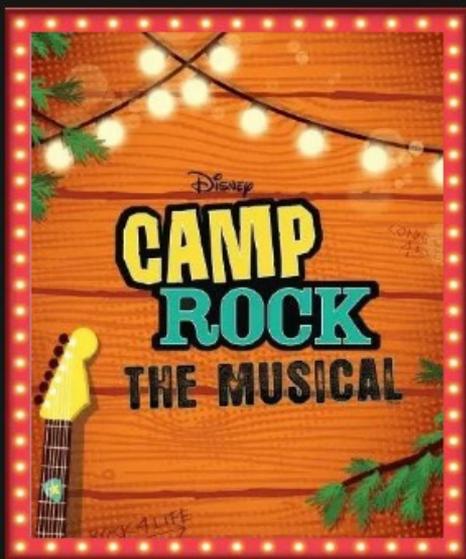
# Incoming Owl from STC...

Branford Parks & Recreation Shoreline Theatre Company

# UPCOMING SHOWS



High School & Adult Production  
June 29th & 30th @ 7:00 PM  
July 6th & 7th @ 7:00 PM



2nd - 8th Grade  
Summer Camp Experience  
June 26th - July 28th  
Performances the evenings of  
July 26th and July 27th